In The Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 5, 12, 13, 16, 17, 21 and 23, as follows:

     1.   (Currently Amended). In a distributed computing environment, a method for managing an electronic record for compliance with network security policies of an organization, the method comprising:

     creating an electronic tag that uniquely identifies the electronic record, the electronic tag being associated with a deletion prevention specified time period for compliance with the network security policies;

     storing the at least one electronic tag in a central repository; [[and]]

     sending the electronic record from the distributed computing environment to a recipient; and

     initiating the execution of scripting code upon the sending of the electronic record from the distributed computing environment to the recipient, the scripting code containing the procedures [for handling the electronic record;] for handling the electronic record,

     wherein the initiation of the execution of the scripting code prevents the electronic record from being deleted before expiration of the deletion prevention time period associated with the electronic tag.

2.   (Previously Amended). The method of claim 1, further comprising deleting the electronic record and selectively deleting the at least one electronic tag.

3.   (Original). The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the electronic record.

4.   (Cancelled).

5.   (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, wherein the distributed computing environment comprises a computer having a <u>network user</u> registry and a <u>network user</u> user profile, and wherein creating the electronic tag comprises generating a reference code and creating the electronic tag at least in part as a function of at least one of the registry, the user profile, and the reference code.

6.   (Previously Amended). The method of claim 5, wherein generating the reference code comprises reading the electronic record.

7.   (Previously Amended). The method of claim 5, wherein the reference code comprises a classification code and an index code.

8.   (Previously Amended). The method of claim 7, wherein the classification code is selected from a group comprising business email, personal email, intramail, bulletin board, minutemail, and purgemail.

9.   (Previously Amended). The method of claim 7, wherein the index code identifies the contents of an electronic record and the recipient of the electronic record.

10.   (Previously Amended). The method of claim 1, wherein creating the electronic tag comprises:

reading a stored electronic tag; and

generating an electronic tag in response to accessing an electronic record;

11.   (Previously Amended). The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic record comprises an email message.

12.   (Currently Amended). The method of claim 1, wherein sending the electronic record comprises:

reading the electronic tag; and

generating a new electronic tag at least in part as a function of the read electronic tag, [a computer registry, a user profile,] a network user registry, a network user user profile, and a reference code.

Applicant: Jacobson
Application No.: 09/175,589
Title: "Electronic Records Management System"
Attorney Docket No.: 065424.0004

Examiner: E. Colbert
Art Unit: 3694

13.   (Currently Amended). In a distributed computing environment, an apparatus for managing an electronic record for compliance with network security policies, the apparatus comprising:

a computer system comprising at least one processor and at least one memory, the computer system being adapted and arranged to create an electronic tag that uniquely identifies the electronic record, the electronic tag being associated with a deletion prevention time period for compliance with the network security policies;

a central repository adapted to store the electronic tag;

the distributed computing environment being adapted to send the electronic record to a recipient; and

scripting code, contained within the electronic tag, which is initiated and executed upon the sending of the electronic record from the distributed computing environment to the recipient, the scripting code containing the procedures [for handling the electronic record;] for handling the electronic record,

wherein the initiation of the execution of the scripting code prevents the electronic record from being deleted before expiration of the deletion prevention time period associated with the electronic tag.

14.   (Original). The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the computer system is further adapted and arranged for purging the electronic record by deleting the electronic record and selectively deleting the electronic tag.

15.   (Cancelled).

16.   (Currently Amended). The apparatus of claim 13, wherein the distributing computing environment comprises a computer having a <u>network user</u> registry and a <u>network user</u> user profile, wherein the computer system is configured and arranged to:

generate a reference code, wherein the electronic tag is generated at least in part as a function of at least one of the <u>network user</u> registry, the <u>network user</u> user profile, and the reference code.

17.   (Currently Amended). In a distributed computing environment, an article of manufacture for managing an electronic record for compliance with network security policies, the article of manufacture comprising a computer-readable storage medium having a computer program embodied therein that causes the distributed computing environment to:

create an electronic tag that <u>uniquely</u> identifies the electronic record, the electronic tag being associated with a deletion prevention <u>specified</u> time period for compliance with the network security policies; and

initiate <u>the execution of</u> scripting code upon the sending of the electronic record to a recipient, the scripting code containing the procedures [for handling the electronic record;] <u>for handling the electronic record,</u>

wherein the initiation of the execution of the scripting code prevents the

electronic record from being deleted before expiration of the deletion prevention time

period associated with the electronic tag.

18.   (Previously Amended). The article of claim 17, wherein the computer

program further causes the distributed computing environment to purge the electronic

record by deleting the electronic record and selectively deleting the electronic tag.

19.   (Previously Amended). The article of claim 17, wherein the computer

program further causes the distributed computing environment to store the electronic

record.

20.   (Cancelled).

21.   (Currently Amended). The article of claim 17, wherein the distributed

computing environment comprises a computer having a network user registry and a

network user user profile, wherein the computer program further causes the distributed

computing environment to generate a reference code, wherein the electronic tag is

generated at least in part as a function of at least one of the network user registry, the

network user user profile, and the reference code.

22.   (Previously Amended). The article of claim 17, wherein the computer

program further causes the distributed computing environment to:

read stored electronic tags; and

generate a further electronic tag in response to accessing an electronic

record.

23.   (Currently Amended). In a distributed computing environment, a method

for managing an electronic record for compliance with network security policies of an

organization, the method comprising:

creating an electronic tag that uniquely identifies the electronic record, the

electronic tag being associated with a deletion prevention specified time period for

compliance with the network security policies;

storing the at least one electronic tag in a central repository;

sending the electronic record to a recipient; and

initiating the execution of scripting code upon the sending of the electronic

record, the scripting code containing the procedures [for handling the electronic record;]

for handling the electronic record,

wherein the initiation of the execution of the scripting code prevents the

electronic record from being deleted before expiration of the deletion prevention time

period associated with the electronic tag; and

wherein the distributed computing environment automatically monitors

compliance with the network security policies as a function of the electronic tag.

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24.   (Cancelled).

25.   (Cancelled).

26.   (Cancelled).